

WILDFLOWERS

of the TEJON PASS

*"May our walking on earth
be gentle as the union of
the butterfly and the flower"*

Traditional Buddhist Blessing

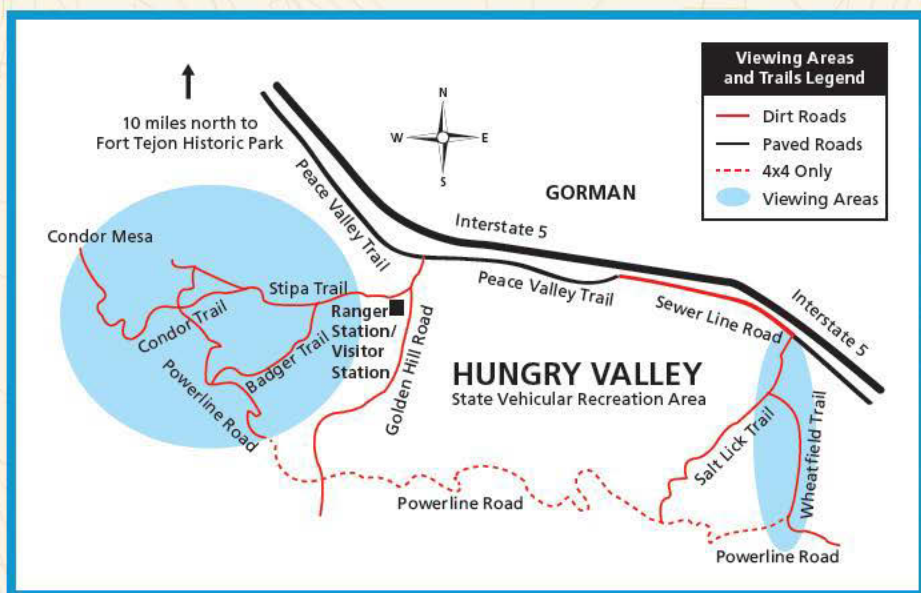




Welcome to one of the finest wildflower viewing areas in the State of California. Located at Tejon Pass in northern Los Angeles and Ventura counties, Hungry Valley SVRA offers over 19,000 acres of recreational opportunities for off-highway enthusiasts and nature lovers of all ages. This wildflower guide is provided by Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) for visitors to help identify the many varieties of wildflowers that bloom in the park and the best areas to view them. We invite you to take the time to explore the many roads and trails available in the park where you can view a brilliant display of wildflower colors and one of nature's greatest celebrations of spring.

GUIDED WILDFLOWER TOURS

In spring, mid-April through May, two-hour guided tours are available at Hungry Valley SVRA by appointment. From the Visitor Center, our Park Rangers will lead tours to a variety of wildflower viewing sites within the SVRA. You'll drive on dirt roads, as well as park and walk to a variety of viewing areas. Please bring your walking shoes, sunscreen, water, hat and camera.



SELF-GUIDED TOURS

Hungry Valley SVRA also provides a self-guided wildflower touring route, for those on their own schedule. The self-guided tour begins at the Visitor Center and is marked with distinctive blue and white flower signs to guide you to some of the best viewing areas. There are no designated parking areas along the tour route. If you stop to walk into the flower fields, please do not block the roads or park on vegetation. Self guided tour participants will need to bring a high clearance vehicle, and preferably a four wheel drive.



CALIFORNIA POPPY

The State Flower



The golden poppy has always symbolized California's good life. Its color mirrors California's climate and charm. The profusion of its blooms reflects the richness of the Golden State. Poppies respond to sunlight and will open fully on bright sunny days and close on cloudy, windy days and at night. These beautiful orange, bowl shaped flowers also vary in color from a pale, creamy yellow to a deep orange-red. All white albino poppies occasionally will appear on hillsides. They range from 8" to 24" with lacy, blue-green leaves.

Eschscholzia californica

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DESERT DANDELION

Malacothrix glabrata

This ray flower head often exceeds 3" in diameter with yellow center petals that fade to white on the outer edges. Grows 4" to 18" tall with hollow stems. A member of the Sunflower family, it blooms from March through June, more abundantly in wet years.



GOLDEN STARS

Bloomeria crocea

Golden Stars appear like twinkling stars when spotted in the brown grasses of late spring. Star-like, butter yellow flowers cluster to form a rounded ball shape. Grows 6" to 14" tall.



SPENCER PRIMROSE

Camissonia ignota

The Spencer Primrose grows from 6" to 10" tall, with bright yellow 4-petal flowers about 1" in diameter. As the flower matures, it rolls into a red bud. Leaves are thin and stems develop a papery bark at the base.



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CALIFORNIA PRIMROSE

Oenothera californica

The fragrant California Primrose has four white to pinkish heart shaped petals that open in the evening. Attractive to large native bumblebees, they remain open until late in the morning, closing by midday. Height is 4" to 8".



COREOPSIS

Coreopsis californica

Coreopsis belongs to the sunflower family and is traditionally one of the earliest to blossom in Tejon Pass. Its name comes from a Greek word meaning "like a tick." Often grows in hard brick-like soil, 6" to 14" tall with narrow leaves mostly at the base.



WESTERN WALLFLOWER

Erysimum capitatum

The Western Wallflower blossoms in early summer and grows from 12" to 40" tall. The flower varies in color from yellow to orange. Appearing similar to and named after a like species in Britain found growing from walls.



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GOLDEN YARROW

Eriophyllum confertiflorum

Beginning in April, bright yellow flower heads blossom in rather flat-topped clusters 2' to 4' in height. The Golden Yarrow's woody stems and leaves are covered with grayish-white fuzzy "wool."



GOLDFIELDS

Lasthenia chrysostoma

Usually the first to bloom in large numbers, Goldfields can carpet thin, poor soil with color. The fragrant flowers can vary from yellow to pale white on the petal tips. Grow 4" to 8" tall with slender, opposing leaves and reddish stems.



DESERT MARIPOSA

Calochortus kennedyi

This wildflower grows from a bulb but is rarely found grouped together as most bulb plants are. Bowl shaped with reddish orange petals and long, narrow, curling leaves, this Mariposa can grow 2" to 14" tall.



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WHITE MARIPOSA

Calochortus venustus

A striking bulb plant, Mariposa lilies have a relatively short bloom, usually from May through June. They can vary in color including white, purple, pink, and red or can be a combination of colors. The genus is found only in western North America.



INDIAN PAINTBRUSH

Castilleja chromosa

Indian Paintbrush is one of the best-recognized flowers in the western states with over 20 species found in California. The flower bract is characterized by its bright orange-red coloring with yellow tips. Height is 4" to 16".



SCARLET BUGLER

Penstemon centranthifolius

This upright wildflower is a perennial herb. Blossoms emerge from opposite bracts above opposing leaves on 12" to 36" stems. Scarlet tubular flowers are especially attractive to hummingbirds.



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OWL'S CLOVER

Castilleja purpurascens

Owl's Clover is an early bloomer, often seen in March, creating splashes of color on hillsides. Not really a clover, but with a little imagination, you can see the "owl's eyes and beak." The flower is pinkish-red to maroon and grows from 4" to 8" tall.



DAVY'S GILIA

Gilia latiflora ssp davyi

These fragile flowers are characterized by their dark throats with pink or red coloring on the inside of the flower petal and blue tips. Sometimes referred to as Birdseye Gilia, Davy's Gilia grow from 8" to 14" high.



BABY BLUE EYES

Nemophila menziesii

The bright blue saucer shaped flowers with a white center grow atop thin, hairy stems, low to the ground, 4" to 14" high. Cultivated in Britain for centuries, seeds are often in wildflower seed mixtures.



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PARRY GILIA

Linanthus parryae

Parry Gilia varies from snow color to light blue or pink. Flowers grow up to 2" high in clusters, and often lay as if thrown scattered from a basket. Leaves are short, prickly and usually hidden by the blooms.



BLUE DICK

Dichelostemma pulchella

A wild hyacinth, Blue Dick tends to grow in small groups among other plants from an underground root bulb. The compound flowers have 6 tiny blue-violet petals in a compact ball emerging atop a thin, reedy stem, 1' to 2' high.



GLOBE GILIA

Gilia capitata

Globe Gilia has tiny, 5 petal, blue flowers that form a globe on long, thin stems 6" to 24" in height. Compound leaves are found mostly growing at the base of the plant. Native Americans commonly used this plant for medicinal purposes.



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LACY PHACELIA

Phacelia tanacetifolia

Adapted to drier climates, these fragrant flowers are characterized by clusters of tiny, lavender bell like petals unfurling from pods at the ends of thick stems. Hairy, deeply notched leaves grow alternately, in a fern like appearance, 8" to 32" in height.



BENTHAM LUPINE

Lupinus benthamii

Flowers are bright blue with a white top-notch, 12" to 18" in height. Although the Latin name implies robbing, meaning "wolf" or "thief," it actually adds nutrients to the soil. Over 60 species of Lupine are found in California.



CALIFORNIA CHIA

Salvia columbariae

Bright purple flowers grow from a round pod with as many as 5 ascending pods per stalk. They have been used for centuries by Native Americans to make pinole a type of ground meal. Grows 6" to 24" high.



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CHINESE HOUSES

Collinsia heterophylla

Several circles of dainty flowers diminishing in size, in light to dark lavender grow like tiny pagodas from a thin stalk. Chinese Houses reach 4" to 20" tall and are found in woodland areas or on north facing slopes.



PRICKLY PHLOX

Leptodactylon californicum

Typically a cliff-hanger, the showy Prickly Phlox flowers vary from magenta to pale lilac. The woody stems are covered with small prickly, needle-like leaves. Found widely in wetter years blossoming February to June, this many-branched shrub grows up to 3' in height.



PRICKLY POPPY

Argemone corymbosa

Reaching 2' to 4' in height, this perennial favorite is usually found growing in small colonies over a wide spread area. The large fragrant flower petal (up to 9" across) are bright white and have a thin texture, resembling crepe paper.



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FREMONT PINCUSHION

Chaenactis fremontii

As its name implies, this wildflower appears rather like a pincushion. The flower head is 1" to 1 1/2" in diameter, leaves are narrow, alternate, and are not too noticeable when in bloom. They grow 4" to 16" tall on sandy slopes.



DESERT TIDY TIPS

Layia glandulosa

Tejon Pass is the host to both the two-toned Tidy Tips (yellow with white petal tips) and the desert variety (all white petals) shown here. The leaves are rough hairy and some what glandular, they grow 4" to 16" high and are often confused with daisies.



CREAM CUPS

Platystemon californicus

In early spring Cream Cups can turn entire fields a creamy white color. The six-petal flower is often two-toned creamy white with yellow streaks. Tiny hairs on the long 10" to 12" stems collect moisture droplets as an adaptation to dry climates.



GRASSLANDS



Native perennial bunchgrasses, which once dominated most of California, now exist only in a few small valleys across the state.

A unique six square mile area along the northern boundary of Hungry Valley SVRA still contains California native grass plant communities in

their original condition. This area has been set aside as a natural preserve called "Hungry Valley Native Grasslands Management Area," in order to protect, maintain community and enhance the native grass. The bunchgrasses grow in dense up-right tufts and can be seen every spring in the park.

"Today, only 1% of the original California valley grasslands remain in their original pristine condition."



COAST RANGE MELIC,

a densely to loosely tufted perennial is found throughout the Hungry Valley Management Grassland Area. This native grass grows in dry soil and acts as a valuable soil binder along roadways and on disturbed brushland soils.

YUCCA



Also known as "Our Lord's Candle," the Yucca blooms often and grows to 14' high from a rigid fibrous stalk.

In summer, Yucca plants bloom across the southern portion of Hungry Valley SVRA as far as the eye can see. Growing from stiff leaf blades at the base, hundreds of creamy white, 6-petaled flowers sprout on top of tall green stalks standing 6' to 14' high. The existence of the Yucca depends entirely on the Tegitacula Moth, which pollinates the plant when the female moth deposits her eggs in the flower pistil.

Native Americans had many uses for the different parts of the Yucca plant. The seeds were ground into flour, made into cakes and stored for winter food. The very young flower stalks were roasted or used to make a beverage. The leaves and roots were pounded and used as soap. The fiber from the dead leaves were woven into clothing, mats, and baskets and the sharp points of the leaves were used for needles.

WHERE TO FIND WILDFLOWER VIEWING UPDATES

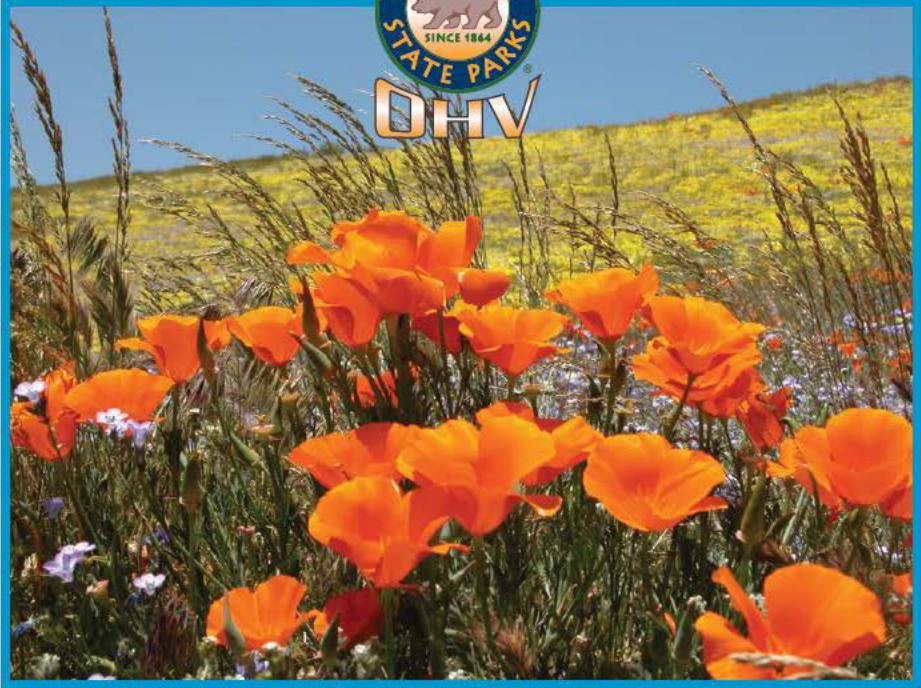
Hungry Valley State Park at (661) 248-7007
or visit www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/hungryvalley.

Southern California Wildflower Hotline at (818) 768-3533,
a service of the Theodore Payne Foundation,
or visit <http://www.theodorepayne.org/hotline.html>.

Kern County Wildflower Hotline at (800) 500-KERN,
serving the southern San Joaquin Valley and Tehachapi Mountains.

California Poppy Reserve at (661) 946-6092.

Look for us on Facebook at Hungry Valley SVRA.



Wildflower Viewing Tips

- Please stay on the trails when walking to view the wildflowers.
- All roads and trails are subject to temporary closures during wet weather conditions.
- If you stop to take a photograph, do not park on vegetation and make sure your vehicle is parked at a wide spot in the road so other vehicles may pass. There are no designated parking areas along the tour route.
- Help keep the park clean and beautiful. Please put litter in a proper receptacle.
- Please do not climb or cut any fences.
- Avoid picking the flowers out of their natural habitat.



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California
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Parks and Recreation
OHMVR Division